



Common Ground Alliance

Dig Safely.
1-888-258-0808

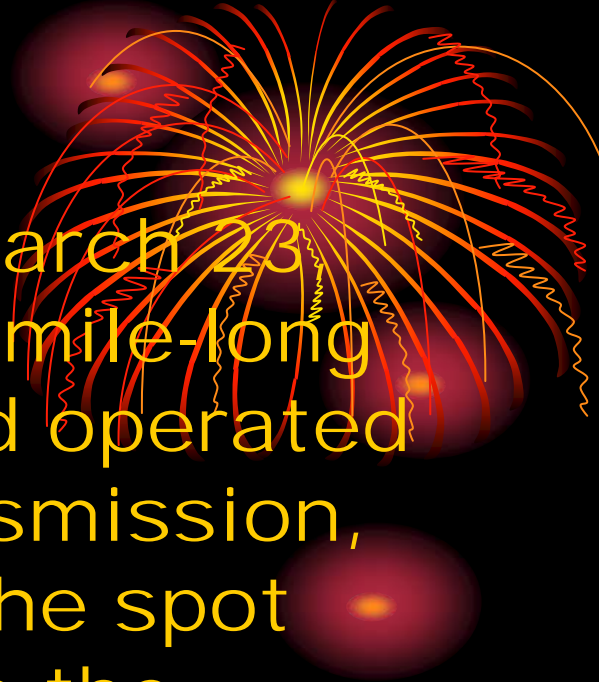
Common Ground

- In the Beginning There Were The States - We had laws, the USA didn't
- Congressman Pallone Has A Problem In His District - Edison, NJ, 1994



Edison, NJ, 1996

- Just before midnight March 23, 1994, a portion of a 45-mile-long gas pipeline owned and operated by Texas Eastern Transmission, Houston, exploded at the spot where it runs alongside the Durham Woods apartments.
- Officials say the catastrophic damage was all caused by unsafe digging, likely done by a backhoe...



Durham Woods apartment complex

- 1500 Residents displaced
- \$25 in Damages
- One Person dead from heart attack



Common Ground

- A Solution In Search Of A Problem
- Congress Is Concerned: pre and post-1994
- The First Attempt To Solve The Problem - *"Do It Or Else!"*
- The Second Attempt - A Kinder, Gentler Bill: *"Please Think About Doing It, Because All Of Your Friends Are And We'll Give You Money."*



Common Ground

- Three Years Later
- TEA 21 Becomes Law; One-Call's A Rider
- June 9, 1998, A Date To Remember
- Sec. 6105 Tells the US Secretary of Transportation What To Do
- It Also Tells Him To Be Nice About It



Really Common Ground

- Study Current Practices Associated With Existing Systems - "We're Not Here To Reinvent The Wheel."
- Do The Study With Other Stakeholders - Government & Non-Government
- Identify The Best Practices: What's Most Effective?



Really Common Ground

- Tell Congress What You Find
- Tell Everybody Else, Too
- Set Up A Grant Program For States That Meet Best Practices, And Let Those States Submit Grant Application To Enhance What They Have
- Be Inclusive
- Be Nice



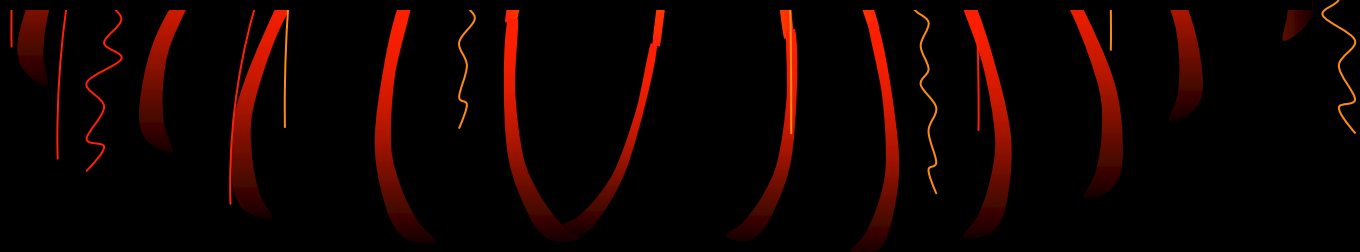
Big Next Step?



- The Report Went To Congress And The States
- But The Momentum Needed To Continue
- All Dressed Up: We Needed Somewhere To Go
- Common Ground Alliance Is Formed

Regional Partner Program

A large, vibrant firework explosion in shades of red, orange, and yellow, positioned behind the title text.

- Local forum to discuss best practices in damage prevention.
- 
- A series of smaller firework bursts in red and orange, located at the bottom of the slide.

Benefits of Partnership



- Promotes the adoption of the CGA Best Practices within local communities ...
- 

Northwest



MISSION:

Northwest Regional CGA will become a recognized leader in the area of damage prevention best practices implementation. The group will work cooperatively with utilities, construction and excavation communities, local governments, industry groups and the general public to educate, improve damage prevention practices and to drive best in class practices by its members and external stakeholders.



• Included in those supporting the formation of this group are:

- Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana Utilities Coordinating Councils
- Utilities Underground Location Centers
- Office of Pipeline Safety
- Executive Director of Common Ground Alliance
- Washington Utilities Transportation Commission
- Washington's Citizen Committee on Pipeline Safety
- Thurston County Roads and Transportation
- Locating, Inc.
- One Call Concepts
- Evergreen Rural Water of WA
- Spokane Water District #3
- Utility Contractors Association of Washington
- Cascade Natural Gas

• Included in those supporting the formation of this group are:

- Avista Utilities
- Armadillo Underground
- BP/Olympic Pipeline
- Moore Excavation
- National Energy and Gas Transmission – Gas Transmission Northwest
- Northwest Gas Association
- NW Natural
- Portland General Electric
- Puget Sound Energy
- Williams Northwest Pipeline
- Wubben Bros.
- McChord Pipeline
- QWEST



Northwest



To accomplish this NWCGA will:

- **Involve others in the safety and protection of underground facilities**
- **Form regional alliances and develop programs that contribute to the safety of underground facilities**

Northwest



To accomplish this NWCGA will:

- **Model and articulate the value of Common Ground Alliance damage prevention Best Practices**
- **Focus on some short term opportunities to make a difference and to maintain the group's momentum**

Challenges

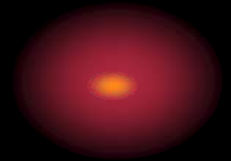
- Avoiding Anagram *SCHEZOPHRENIA*
 - UULC
 - WUCC
 - NWCGA
 - CGA
 - UCAW
 - WUTC

I GET IT, WHY CAN'T THEY?



Challenges

- Washington's WEAK DIG LAW
- Post Edison, NJ
 - Collected more than \$3.5 million in fines.
 - "The frequency of damage to our facilities has been cut in half," Peter A Cistaro, VP of Gas Delivery at PSE&G.



Good Stuff Happens

- Washington's DIG LAW gains a *FANG*
- Post Bellingham
 - Widespread awareness
 - Strong citizen involvement
 - Great collaboration
- The phone never stops ringing



RESOURCES

- all begin with WWW
- .cga-northwest.org
- commongroundalliance.com
- callbeforeyoudig.com

DON EVANS – 425-766-3412



